

that there would be no water available for this project after catering to the needs of on-going Stage-I of the project. The Stage-II proposal was, therefore, returned to the State Government in May, 1989.

Point to Point Contact Dialling Facility in Andhra Pradesh

1307. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide point to point contact dialling facility in various Telephone Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof exchange-wise and the time by which this facility is likely to be available to the subscribers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Expansion of Damanjodi Alumina Plant

1308. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved the proposal for expansion of Alumina Plant at Damanjodi in Orissa;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the details of the additional staff required on expansion of the said Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to the Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by the

National Aluminium Company (NALCO) the additional manpower requirement for expansion of Aluminium plant at Damanjodi is about 650.

[Translation]

Constitution of Telephone Advisory Committee in Bihar

1309. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in constituting the Telephone Advisory Committee in Bihar; and

(b) the time by which the said Committee is likely to be constituted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Bihar Telecom Advisory Committee and Patna Telephones Advisory Committees were constituted on 28-29/3/1991 and are under review.

[English]

Production of Betel Leaves

1310. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of the betel leaves produced in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide minimum support price to the betel leaf growers and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken so far by the Government for the welfare of betel leaf growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The estimated average value of annual production of betel leaves during the last 3 years is Rs. 700/- crores.

(b) No Sir, Betal leaf is not covered in the price support policy for agricultural commodities.

(c) The following major welfare measures are taken:—

- (i) Demonstration of important agro-techniques.
- (ii) Improvement of germplasm for supply of good planting material.
- (iii) Supply of inputs at subsidised rates.

[Translation]

Opening of Post Offices in Bihar

1311. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of post offices and sub-post offices functioning in Bihar at present District-wise;

(b) the number of new post offices and sub-post offices likely to be opened during 1991-92; and

(c) the amount allocated therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The required information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

(b) It is proposed to open 10 Sub Post Offices and 250 Branch Post Offices in Bihar during 1991-92.

(c) For the expansion of Postal Network throughout the country Rs. 3 crores have been allotted. No separate financial allotment has been made Statewise. Suitable allocations are made to the Postal Circles as per requirements.

[English]

SAARC Convention on Terrorism

1312. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has demanded immediate ratification of SAARC Convention on Terrorism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV SINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) All the Member States of SAARC have already ratified the Convention. The question of our demanding immediate ratification does not, therefore, arise.

Assistance for Increasing Milk Production in Kerala

1313. SHRI SURESH KODIKKUNIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Milk Marketing Society has sought financial assistance from the Union Government for increasing milk production in Kerala;

(b) if so, the amount of assistance sought during 1991 and provided by the Union Government; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the development of Dairies in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) Kerala Milk Marketing Society has not sought any financial assistance from the Government of India for increasing milk production in Kerala during 1991.

(c) Dairying in Kerala is being developed under Operation Flood Programme and also with financial assistance from the Swiss Government for North Kerala Dairy Project.

Assistance to Fishermen Villages in Kerala

1314. SHRI T. J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the fishermen villages in Kerala selected for assistance by National Co-operative Development Corporation;

(b) whether there is any proposal to extend this assistance to all other fishermen villages in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?